

In Recital

Shannon Simpson, soprano

assisted by

Roger Admiral, piano

Saturday, April 22, 2000 at 8:00 pm
Fine Arts Building 1-29



Department of Music
University of Alberta

Program

Fünf Gedichte Fur Eine Frauenstimme (1857-58)

Der Engel
Stehe still
Im Treibhaus
Schmerzen
Träume

**Richard Wagner
(1813-1883)**

This recital is presented in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the Bachelor of Music degree for Ms Simpson.

Reception to follow.

Translation

Fünf Gedichte Fur Eine Frauenstimme/Five Poems For Female Voice

Text by Mathilde Wesendonk

Der Engel/ The Angel

In my early childhood days
I often heard tales of angels
who exchange the blissful sublimity of heaven
for the sunshine of earth,
heard that, when a heart in sorrow
hides its grief from the world,
bleeds in silence,
and dissolves in tears,

Der Engel/ The Angel (cont'd.)

offers fervent prayers
for deliverance,
then the angel flies down
and bears it gently to heaven.
Yes, an angel came down to me also,
and on shining pinions
bears my spirit away from all torment
heavenward.

Stehe still/Be Still

Rushing, roaring wheel of time,
you measure of eternity;
shining spheres in the vast firmament,
you that encircle our earthly globe;
eternal creation, stop!
enough of becoming, let me be!
Ye powers of generation, cease,
primal thought, that endlessly creates,
stop every breath, still every urge,
give but one moment of silence!
Swelling pulses, restrain you beating;
end, eternal day of the will!
So that, in sweet forgetfulness,
I may take the full measure of all my joy!
When eye blissfully gazes into eye,
when soul drowns in soul;
when being finds itself in being,
and the goal of all hopes is near,
then lips are mute in silent amazement,
the heart can have no further wish:
man knows the imprint of eternity,
and solves your riddle, blessed Nature!

Im Treibhaus/ In the Hothouse

High-arching leafy crowns,
canopies of emerald,
you children of distant lands,
tell me, why do you lament?
Silently you incline your branches,
tracing signs in the air,
and, mute witness to your sorrows,
a sweet perfume rises.
Wide, in longing and desire,
you spread your arms
and embrace, in self-deception,
barren emptiness, a fearful void.
Well I know it, poor plant!
We share the same fate.
Although the light shines brightly round us,

Im Treibhaus/ In the Hothouse

our home is not here!
And, as the sun gladly quits
the empty brightness of the day,
so he, who truly suffers,
wraps round him the dark mantle of silence.
It grows quiet, an anxious rustling
fills the dark room;
I see heavy drops hanging
from the green edges of the leaves.

Schmerzen/Torment

Sun, you weep every evening
until your lovely eyes are red,
when, bathing in the sea,
you are o'ertaken by your early death;
But you rise again in your old splendour,
the aureole of the dark world;
fresh awakened in the morning
like a proud and conquering hero!
Ah, then, why should I complain,
why should my heart be so heavy,
if the sun itself must despair,
if the sun itself must go down?
And, if only death gives birth to life,
if only torment brings bliss;
then how thankful I am that Nature
has given me such torment.

Träume/ Dreams

Say, what wondrous dreams
hold my soul captive,
and have not disappeared like bubbles
into barren nothingness?
Dreams, that in every hour
of every day bloom most fair,
and, with their intimations of heaven,
float blissfully through my mind!
Dreams, that like rays of glory
penetrate the soul,
there to leave an everlasting imprint:
forgetfulness of all, remembrance of one!
Dreams, like the kiss of the spring sun
drawing blossoms from the snow,
so that to undreamed-of bliss
the new day may welcome them.
So that they grow and flower,
spread their scent as in a dream,
softly fade upon your breast,
then sink into their grave.

Upcoming Events:

April

25 Tuesday, 8:00 pm

Trombone Celebration featuring Christopher Taylor, John McPherson and students

Free admission

29 Saturday, 8:00 pm

**The University of Alberta Concert Choir
Tour Concert**

Debra Cairns, Conductor

Program will include works by Mendelssohn, Elgar, Rheinberger, and Patriquin.

Admission: Donations will be collected at the door to help offset tour costs. For donations of \$20 or more, a tax receipt can be issued.

May

14 Sunday, 8:00 pm

Faculty Recital

Scott Whetham, tuba

Music For Tuba. Program will include works by Vinter, Hindemith, Forsyth, Whetham (chamber ensemble).

30 Tuesday, 8:00 pm

Master of Music Recital

Leônor Rondeau, piano. Free admission